

MEMORIAL DAY

T H E F O R T L E A V E N W O R T H

MONDAY
MAY 27, 2024



LAMP

Special Section

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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The *Fort Leavenworth Lamp* staff salutes the sacrifices and service of military members and their families — past and present.

This special supplement to the *Fort Leavenworth Lamp* weekly newspaper features a sampling of *Lamp* photos and stories from over the years, including coverage of Memorial Day ceremonies and activities, as well as glimpses of the Fort Leavenworth community's shared grief for our fallen and support for their loved ones.

IN THIS ISSUE:

S2: **HOLIDAY MESSAGE**
from senior leaders

S2-3: Tour of the
**FORT LEAVENWORTH
NATIONAL CEMETERY**

S3: **CEMETERY
GROUNDS CREW**
prepares for busiest day

S4-5: **MEMORIALIZING
THE PAST**
with objects

S6-7: **REMEMBERING
OUR FALLEN:**
SGT Walters laid to rest,
awarded Silver Star

S8-9: **REMEMBERING
OUR FALLEN:**
Survivor grief, community
support in photos

S10-11: **REMEMBERING
OUR FALLEN:**
Dedication ceremonies in
memory of COL Harrison,
MSG Sabalu, COL McHugh

S12: Photos
of Fort Leavenworth
**MEMORIAL DAY
CEREMONIES**
and preparation
from over the years

2024 MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES

• **9 A.M. MAY 27**
at the Leavenworth
National Cemetery

• **11:30 A.M. MAY 27**
at the Fort Leavenworth
National Cemetery



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

The Joint Color Guard — comprised of Spc. Dominique Neal, 291st Military Police Company, 40th MP Internment and Resettlement Battalion; Spc. Richard Priolo, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th; Pfc. Thomas Leerer, 291st; Marine Sgt. Ty Hayden, Marine Corps Detachment; Air Force Master Sgt. Dave Frederick, Headquarters Air Force Security Forces Center, Detachment 1; PS1 Frederick Napiza, Navy Liaison Detachment, U.S. Disciplinary Barracks; and Pfc. Angel Ferrer, 256th MP Company, 40th — posts the colors below a half-staff flag during the Memorial Day ceremony May 28, 2012, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. The nation's colors, which should be flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day, were raised to the top later in the ceremony.

Garrison Command Team urges safety, reflection this Memorial Day

by Fort Leavenworth Garrison Commander Col. Duane Mosier and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Erika Rhine-Russell

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by John A. Logan, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, to honor Union soldiers who died in the Civil War.

This national observance was preceded by many local ones before the end of the Civil War and before Logan's declaration. Many cities claimed to be the first to exercise such an observance; however, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the strewing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890,

every Union state had adopted it.

In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May.

Make it a safe holiday

The first holiday of the summer is upon us. We all have various activities scheduled for the weekend, which might include cook-outs, picnics, boating, swimming, motor sports, work around the house, etc.

No matter what you have planned, please make safety a part of your weekend. If you are traveling, be careful on the road.

Take a moment to reflect

As you enjoy this holiday, take a moment to reflect on those who came before us and the ones who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

Have a safe and responsible holiday weekend.



USAG Fort Leavenworth Safety Gram



27 May 2024



Memorial Day



Memorial Day is when we take time and honor the fallen who paid the ultimate sacrifice to service of this country. It also ushers in the unofficial start of summer, and as we prepare for a weekend filled with diverse activities below are some safety tips to help ensure your holiday is a positive memorable one

Traveling by car:

- Inspect your vehicle
- Check weather
- Minimize distractions
- Take breaks
- Don't drink and drive



Boating:

- Utilize life jackets
- Watch weather
- Follow boating rules
- Don't drink and drive
- Use sunscreen



Grilling:

- Place away from combustibles
- Inspect grill for leaks, etc.
- Keep young kids at least 3 feet away
- Do not leave grill unattended



Swimming:

- Use buddy system
- Don't drink and swim
- Swim in designated areas
- Life jackets for weak swimmers
- Use sunscreen



HYDRATE!



Biking/Hiking:

- Check weather
- Wear a helmet
- Route recon
- Be visible
- PACE plan



HYDRATE!

HYDRATE!

The Memorial Day weekend also commences the "101 Critical Days of Summer". The Garrison Safety Office will disseminate weekly safety grams, highlighting a specific summer activity and safety tips to mitigate the risk.

Enjoy your Holiday Weekend!

USAG Leavenworth Safety Office
Army Safe is Army Strong
684-3274

FY 2024-5

Cemetery tour reveals anecdotes, discrepancies

FROM THE LAMP

Published in the
May 25, 2006
issue of the
Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Archives

Story by Tisha Swart-Entwistle
Photos by Prudence Siebert

Published May 25, 2006
by Tisha Swart-Entwistle/Former Lamp Staff
Writer

A small group of history buffs gathered at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery May 20, 2006, to walk and talk and hear a few interesting anecdotes about the cemetery. The group was following John Reichley, a member of the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society.

"Everybody thinks Arlington (National Cemetery) was the first," Reichley said. "Actually, there was no first."

Reichley said there were 12 sites that were in the same bill that Lincoln signed authorizing the first of the National Cemeteries in 1862, and Fort Leavenworth was one of those.

According to Reichley, there is a sign at the National Cemetery at Fort Scott, Kansas, stating it is the first.

"Well, I don't think so," Reichley laughed. "But I have not gone to Fort Scott and drawn my saber."

Henry Leavenworth

Pointing to the large granite monu-

ment marking Col. Henry Leavenworth's grave, Reichley said it was the tallest in the cemetery.

"He (Leavenworth) was here less than a year and died in 1834 in the field in Indian Territory in present day Oklahoma," Reichley said.

When Leavenworth died, his unit buried him and marked the grave on a map. Upon the group's return to civilization, Leavenworth's family was notified. The family wanted Leavenworth buried in the family cemetery in Delphi, New York. The Army sent an expedition back into Indian Territory, found the grave, exhumed him and sent him by train to Delphi, where he stayed interred until 1902. Leavenworth's journey was not over.

In 1902, a delegation from Leavenworth visited the grave in Delphi and was concerned with the lack of upkeep of the cemetery.

"The mayor of Leavenworth and the commander of Fort Leavenworth and all the biggies wrote letters to the next of kin saying, 'We would like your release for the Army to exhume Henry Leavenworth and



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

The recording at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Wayside Tour point highlights a few gravesites, including those of post founder Brevet Brig. Gen. Henry Leavenworth and post sutler Hiram Rich. The recording can be accessed at frontierarmymuseum.oncell.com, by scanning the QR code at the Wayside point, or by calling (913) 745-3222 and inputting the Wayside point number.

bring him to Fort Leavenworth," Reichley said.

On Memorial Day 1902, Leavenworth was reinterred at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Harry Bell

After a short walk, Reichley pointed to the headstone of Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Harry Bell.

"I was going to argue with the nice lady out at the National Cemetery (in Leavenworth) because this (Bell's headstone) says Spanish-American War and her fact sheet says Philippine Insurrection," Reichley

said, "but last night I got out the Medal of Honor book published by Congress, and his medal was, in fact, for the Philippine Insurrection."

Anecdotes, discrepancies

Reichley said he had a list of discrepancies he had uncovered while doing his research for the tour.

"We're not going to walk down that far," Reichley said pointing down the row of headstones. "Down there is Shango Hango, one of 12 Native Americans

SEE CEMETERY TOUR | S3

FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP

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Lt. Gen. Milford H. Beagle Jr. Commanding General
Col. Duane Mosier Garrison Commander
Scott Gibson Public Affairs Officer
George Marcec Command Information Officer

Fort Leavenworth Lamp Staff

Prudence Siebert Editor
ftvlampeditor@gmail.com

FMWR Advertising Staff

Mary Manago Marketing Director
mary.f.manago.naf@army.mil, 913-684-1702



Grounds crew readies for cemetery's busiest day

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp.

Cemetery caretakers Ben Lohman, James Mitchell and John Hobbs work with Curt Williams, engineering equipment operator, to bring a new headstone into alignment with others at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery May 23, 2006.

FROM THE LAMP Archives

Published in the
May 25, 2006
issue of the
Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Story by Tisha Swart-Entwistle
Photos by Prudence Siebert

by Tisha Swart-Entwistle/Former Lamp Staff Writer

Workers have spent countless hours mowing grass and power washing headstones to prepare the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery for Memorial Day — its biggest day for visitors.

Along with a group that comes up from Leavenworth National Cemetery in Leavenworth, Curt Williams and his crew do everything they can to get the cemetery ready for Memorial Day, and keep it looking good the rest of the year.

Maintaining the 36-acre cemetery, with its more than 200 trees and somewhere around 22,000 interments, is monumental task. Williams said he takes his work seriously.

Much of what the crew does with the grounds involves the headstones themselves.

"Sometimes we come across some of the older ones that are broken, and we repair those," Williams said. "You can see some of them that have been put back together."

Williams said the tall thin stones are easily damaged and because of the historical value of them, they have to be repaired when they are broken.

"If it was one like these," Williams said pointing to a newer headstone. "We wouldn't bother with it, we would just order another one."

Williams walked close to a tree and pointed to a large family headstone that had been lifted up on one side and moved

several inches by the roots and trunk of the tree.

"We'll probably get the backhoe and try to pull it this way a little more so the tree isn't raising it up, try to level it out a little," Williams said. "Those are pretty hard to deal with."

Williams said the crew tries to keep up with the stone maintenance on a daily basis.

"We spend an hour or two in the morning, and we'll stringline the stones and re-level some of them," Williams said.

With the constant temperature changes in the Kansas climate, Williams said the stones move around quite a bit, and the older stones are harder to keep straight. In the older sections of the cemetery the stones are shorter and have less marble in the ground, making them less stable.

On May 8, 2002, two microbursts left a path of destruction in the way of downed trees and limbs all over the cemetery. Williams said the clean-up was a lot of work, but they got it all done in time for holiday visitors.

"We lost 46 trees here," Williams said. "It was pretty demoralizing to come to work and see this — it was almost Memorial Day and we looked like a war zone in here."

This year (2006) the team members are readying themselves for thousands of visitors. Williams said they will all work regular shifts the entire Memorial Day weekend. In addition to keeping the restrooms and streets clean and clear, the



The grounds crew of the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery works daily to maintain the cemetery — to include aligning headstones like the ones seen here, repairing headstones as needed, power-washing headstones, mowing and more — and the crew puts in extra effort to prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day. (2006 photo)

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

group will be talking to a lot of family members and visitors.

"It's probably the biggest time of the year where we have discrepancies from what is on the headstone to what the family members remember," Williams said. "That's not the right birth date or her middle initial wasn't 'E' or something — not really complaints but corrections."

Williams said they even go out and straighten a stone up, right then on the spot, if a family member asks.

On the Saturday before Memorial Day a group of about 300 Boy Scouts will come to the cemetery and put an individual U.S.

flag on each grave site.

"It is really pretty," Williams said.

Williams said one of the biggest concerns is getting rain right before Memorial Day. He said the team gets a little edgy because they don't like the grounds to look shabby.

"You get a little pressure on you," Williams said. "You are sitting there watching it rain and the grass is still growing and you can't do anything."

The day after Memorial Day, the Boy Scouts come back and pick the flags up. And it will probably be about time for the team will start mowing again.

Cemetery tour (continued from Page S2)

buried here."

Reichley related one of the stories he said he read about Hango's burial at Fort Leavenworth. Reichley said in those days, Native Americans were not buried in military cemeteries. After serving faithfully as a translator with a Kansas cavalry unit, Hango died in 1863. The story says a couple lieutenants brought the translator's body back to the fort for burial. The superintendent of the cemetery told the men there was no way Hango was going to be buried here.

"Allegedly one of these lieutenants pulled his revolver, cocked it, pointed it

right between the superintendents eyes and said 'Sir, on the morrow there will be a burial here. Whether his or yours is your decision.' and the superintendent replied, 'What time do you want to bury him?'" Reichley laughed.

Reichley said another unique thing about the cemetery is the number of unknown grave markers.

"You'll see several variations, some will say 'U.S. Soldier,' some will just say 'Unknown,'" Reichley said. "Most will say 'Unknown U.S. Soldier.'"

About 1,800 unknown U.S. soldiers are buried in the cemetery. Reichley said it is the largest repository

of unknown soldiers of any cemetery in the world.

Turning and heading up a hill, Reichley said he spotted one of the Confederate headstones.

"Does anybody know the story of the Confederate headstones?" Reichley asked the tour group, "and, how do we know one was a Confederate?"

At first glance all of the headstones in the row look similar, until Reichley pointed out the difference. The tops of the Confederate headstones are pointed on top, instead of rounded. Reichley said the tale is they were done that way so when a Confederate was buried in a Yankee

cemetery, the Yankees wouldn't sit on them.

"True or false — I don't know," Reichley said.

"Wherever the seven Confederates came from, they are all in this area," Reichley said with a sweep of his arm. "It is thought they were killed and brought here after the Battle of Westport during the Civil War."

The tour ended at the grave of Capt. James Allen of the 1st U.S. Dragoons, who died in 1846. Allen's grave is the oldest known military grave in the cemetery. The oldest grave belongs to a civilian, Clarinda Dale, who died in 1844.



Several unknown U.S. soldier graves and a few Confederate graves, identifiable by their pointed tops, can be found in the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

BRIG. GEN. LEAVENWORTH, CPL. COTTER

Memorializing the past with objects

by Megan Hunter, Museum Specialist, Frontier Army Museum/
Special to the Fort Leavenworth Lamp

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day is for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country. The history can be traced back to May, 30, 1868, when Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic proclaimed a commemoration of fallen Civil War soldiers. Volunteers decorated graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers at the cemetery.

General Order No.11 dated May 5, 1868, signed by Logan, proclaimed its purpose:

“... to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.”

Logan's hope was rewarded, and by the late 1800s, many states declared Memorial Day a legal holiday. After World War I, it became an occasion to honor all those who died in all of America's wars.

Objects hold memories

Humans have an innate ability and desire to tell stories. Stories passed from person to person, generation to generation help us to remember and preserve the memory of the past. Objects are physical reminders of these stories, which is why many people “collect” things.

Museums purposely collect historical artifacts to preserve history and tell stories through the exhibition of these artifacts. When collected, objects become locations for memory and emotion, both positive and negative.

The Frontier Army Museum at Fort Leavenworth collects and preserves 19th century military artifacts to teach soldiers and the public about Army history and heritage. Many pieces in the collection can be attributed to an individual soldier who served, some who perished during battle or while on mission.

Henry Leavenworth

One such individual who deserves highlight is Henry Leavenworth, the namesake of Fort Leavenworth.

In spring of 1827, Col. Henry Leavenworth founded a cantonment to serve to protect travelers on the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. Later that cantonment became Fort Leavenworth.

As an Indian agent, Leavenworth traveled throughout the nation creating various posts, including Fort St. Anthony, now Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and working to try and promote peaceful relations among Native American tribes.

While commanding the United States Regiment of Dragoons during an expedition, Leavenworth died from illness on July 21, 1834, near modern Kingston, Oklahoma. While originally buried in Delhi, New York, he was re-interred at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery in 1902. His final resting place is marked with a large 12-foot-high granite marker adorned with a sculpted eagle atop. The marker is etched with Leavenworth's achievement of his rank of Brevet Brigadier General, as well as his achievement of establishing Fort Leavenworth.

The cemetery marker is not the only physical object that exists to remind us of Leavenworth's life and career. Leavenworth's P1832 general officer's coat, c1812 foot officer's sword, and a miniature oil portrait completed just a few months prior to death are housed at the Frontier Army Museum. These items are displayed regularly, and guests can learn about Leavenworth's contributions to the Army, both in person and through the museum's virtual online tour at <https://frontierarmymuseum.stqry.app/>.

These items, both personally owned, and items produced after his death (e.g. tombstone), are physical reminders of this soldier and his impact on Army history.

But what happens when there are no physical reminders that remain? Do we forget the stories or the person?

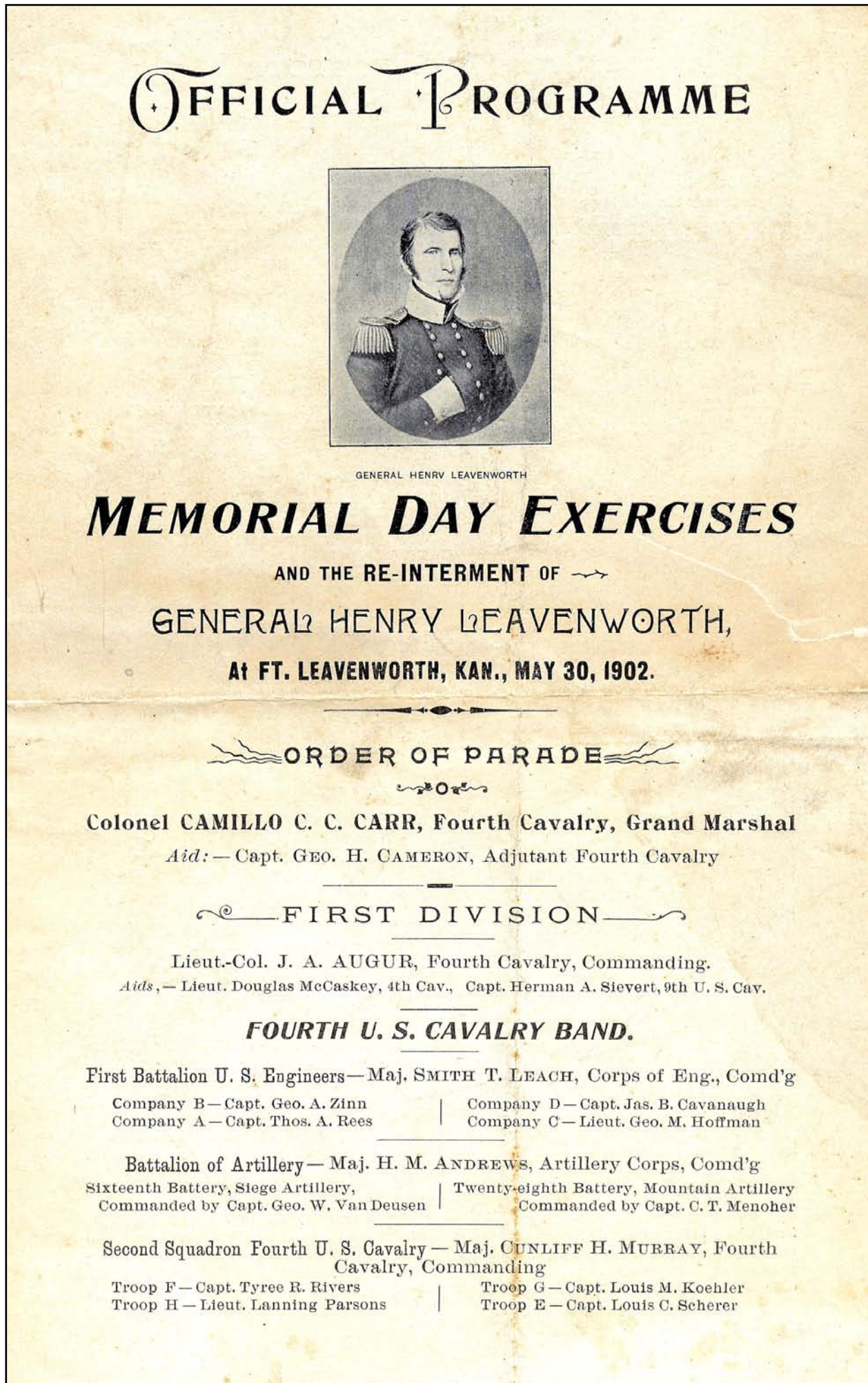
There are instances when soldiers who served and died for our nation may not have physical objects to carry on their legacy.

No artifacts, no story?

In the museum's archives is a simple piece of paper that dates to the Civil War.

This paper, yellowed with age, is an Army Regulation form. The form dictates that when a non-commissioned officer or soldier dies or is killed in the service of the United States, the Army will take account of their possessions. The form in the museum collection indicates that on Aug. 25, 1864, Cpl. John H. Cotter, Company A, Sixth Regiment of Kansas Cavalry Volunteers, died at Fort Smith, Arkansas, due to a gunshot wound by guerrillas. The form signed by Capt. Thomas Crooks states that “he had no effects”.

Basic documents, such as this, can give us a brief



Frontier Army Museum collection CCN: 80202

"Memorial Day Exercises" program, 1902.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

This pattern 1832 general officer's tailcoat with epaulettes, worn by Henry Leavenworth and portrayed in a painting by George Catlin, is featured in the collection at the Frontier Army Museum and is on display in a protective case in the front room off of the museum's entrance. Also on display is the Catlin painting, an infantry officer's sword carried by Leavenworth and a portrait of Harriet Lovejoy Leavenworth, who was Leavenworth's third wife.

Memorializing the past (continued from Page S4)

glimpse into the life a soldier.

John H. Cotter

After some research, more information about this individual came to light. Cotter enlisted at Fort Leavenworth in July of 1861. He originally served with Company E of Fourth Regiment of Kansas Volunteers. He died at age 33, placing his birth around 1831. The form described him as dark complexion, with black eyes and hair. Born in Ohio, he worked as a farmer before enlisting.

Around Jan. 1, 1862, certain companies were shifted and merged. Company E Fourth Kansas Volunteers became Company A, Sixth Kansas Cavalry.

During the four years of active service (1861-1864), the Sixth Kansas Cavalry participated in numerous reconnaissance, skirmishes, and battles throughout Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas. The regiment engaged in disbanding small forces constantly.

According to historical records, on July 27, 1864, the Battle of Massard Prairie occurred. Confederate troops launched a surprise attack on the Sixth Kansas Cavalry encampment at Massard Prairie, less than eight miles south of Fort Smith, Arkansas. The attack occurred around 6 a.m. The Sixth Kansas Cavalry retreated from the prairie back to camp. The surprise attack proved fruitful for the Confederates, capturing around 127 prisoners, weapons and supplies.

Cotter survived this attack, only to be killed one month later in a small skirmish against rebels.

One year later, the Sixth Kansas Cavalry mustered out of service at Fort Leavenworth on Aug. 27, 1865.

Unlike the grand grave marker of Brig. Gen. Leavenworth, Cpl. Cotter received a simpler final resting place marker. Cotter's finally resting place is located at Fort Smith National Cemetery, Section 5 Site 2336, marked on a white marble headstone.

Yet to be discovered, lost stories

As we remember those who served and died during service to our country this Memorial Day, take the time to reflect upon the numerous soldiers whose stories have been lost or not yet discovered.

Discover these stories for yourself by visiting national cemeteries, U.S. Army museums, and the National Archives and Records Administration — all great ways to learn and discover soldiers' stories.

The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico, as well as 34 soldiers' burial lots and monument sites.

The Army Museum Enterprise consists of numerous Army museums in the United States and overseas (Germany and Korea).

To find an Army museum near you, visit <https://history.army.mil/museums/directory.html>.

Inventory of the effects of John H. Cotter late a Corporal of Captain Thomas Brooks Company A of the Sixth Regiment of Kansas Cav. Volunteers, who was enrolled as a Private at Fort Leavenworth in the State of Kansas on the 21 day of July 1861, and mustered into the service of the United States as a Private on the 21 day of July 1861, at Fort Leavenworth in Company "E" Regiment of Kansas Volunteers, to serve three years or during the war; he was born in Delaware in the State of Ohio; he was 33 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, Dark complexion, black eyes, black hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Farmer; he died in his Company, at Fort Smith Ark. on the 25 day of August 1864, by reason of Gunshot

INVENTORY.					
ARTICLES.	No.	ARTICLES.	No.	ARTICLES.	No.
Hats.....		Pairs trousers.....		Knapsacks.....	
Caps.....		Pairs flannel drawers.....			
Forage caps.....		Pairs cotton drawers.....			
Great coats.....		Flannel shirts.....			
Uniform coats.....		Cotton shirts.....			
Uniform jackets.....		Pairs boots.....			
Flannel sack coats.....		Pairs shoes.....			
Blouses.....		Pairs socks.....			
Stable frocks.....		Blankets.....			
Fatigue overalls.....		Haversacks.....			
				MONEY.	
				Specie.....	\$
				Notes.....	\$

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, that the above inventory comprises all the effects of Capt. John H. Cotter, deceased, and that the effects are in the hands of he had no effects at Fort Smith Ark. to be disposed of by a Council of Administration.

(DUPLICATES.)

STATION: Fort Smith Ark.

DATE: Sept. 1, 1864

Thomas Brooks
 Captain
 Commanding the Company.

Frontier Army Museum collection CCN: 78482

Personal Effects Inventory, Cpl. John H. Cotter, "Personal Effects," 1864.



Photos by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

ABOVE: Tim Leavenworth of Ada, Michigan, and Jack Leavenworth of Howe, Texas, study the date on Col. (Brevet Brig. Gen.) Henry Leavenworth's grave during a tour stop at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Aug. 12, 2006. Descendants of the post founder were in town for a family reunion. LEFT: Retired Lt. Col. Quentin Schillare, author of "Fort Leavenworth: The People Behind the Names" and a Fort Leavenworth Lamp column about the post's history, talks about some of the post's namesakes who are buried at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Sept. 17, 2015, at the gravesite of post founder Col. Henry Leavenworth.

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FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP

at <https://home.army.mil/leavenworth/about/news>.

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REMEMBERING our fallen

FROM THE LAMP

Published in the
April 17, 2003
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Archives

Story by Spc. Adrian Lugo
Photos by Prudence Siebert

OIF hero laid to rest at FLNC

by Spc. Adrian A. Lugo/Former Fort Leavenworth Lamp Staff Writer

When Sgt. Donald Walters, 33, made his final arrangements picking out a casket, he did not expect it to be his actual final resting place.

Emblazoned with the Army seal and a mural depicting tanks, helicopters and parachutists against a blue skyline, the casket was selected by Walters "just in case" something happened when he went to war, according to funeral director Kurt Torkelson, of Beldon-Sexton-Sumpter.

A cook with the 507th Maintenance Company out Fort Bliss, Texas, Walters lost his life during an ambush near Nasiriyah in southern Iraq on March 23, 2003. His was one of nine bodies of soldiers recovered during the rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch earlier this month, according to a Department of Defense release.

His life was honored at a funeral service on Fort Leavenworth April 12, 2003, at Main Post Chapel.

More than 300 grieving family members, friends and supporters came to pay their last respects to a soldier who made the "ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom."

Col. Dan Kirby, the Director of Combat Developments, Fort Bliss, spoke at the service.

"Sergeant Walters was a special soldier — he returned to active duty shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, in service to his country. All soldiers know the dangers of military service. Those joining and rejoining after 9-11 knew of those dangers and that they would one day probably face them," Kirby said.

"He fearlessly faced those duties and responsibilities, and demonstrated to us what a leader should be ... as a noncommissioned officer, who truly cared for the well-being of his fellow soldiers and as a combat veteran of Operation Desert Storm. Those who knew him, especially during current combat operations in Iraq, looked up to him for guidance, inspiration and reassurance. He gave them that and more.

"The entire military community extends our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family and friends. His service to his nation has left an indelible mark upon our units, upon our soldiers and upon the United States Army. Sergeant Donald R. Walters will be wholly missed but never forgotten," the colonel said.

Holding back his emotions, Fort Leavenworth Deputy Command Chaplain (Maj.) Frank Jackson made a few remarks about the fallen sergeant.

"When Sergeant Donald Walters raised his hand swearing to defend the Constitution of the United States, the values and the freedoms of this great country — like so many of us here — his family made the same commitment knowing that one day Donald might find himself in harm's way and be asked to give his life to protect that which he believed in," Jackson said.

"In our hearts we pray and hope that that day may never come. Today we express our grief and our gratitude to Sergeant Walters, a man who gave his life to guarantee another day in which we live in freedom. A man who chose to express his great patriotism ... and it is because of that and more his life and death was not in vain," Jackson said.

Walters was raised in Salem, Oregon, and later lived in the Kansas City area for about six years. He served in the Army Reserve 325th Field Hospital in Independence, Missouri.

At the 325th, Walters worked alongside Lt. Col. Dan Sakata, who described him as a model soldier — "high speed and highly motivated."



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

The funeral team carries the casket of Sgt. Donald Walters from Main Post Chapel to a hearse for transport to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery April 12, 2003.

"Excuse the clichés, but if there was ever a true super soldier, my guess is that it would be him. He was committed to his work, his family and his country, and I believe it was that commitment that drove him back to service after Sept. 11. I think all soldiers are prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice if the need arises, but we hope that it never has to come to that. It's a terrible loss, we feel for the family and we will earnestly miss him," Sakata said.

Grieving family members expressed through a Fort Leavenworth casualty assistance officer, Capt. Dena Sonneborn, that they wanted to thank the community for all of their sympathy, love and support.

"They understand that it's not just a loss for them, but for all of us," Sonneborn said.

During the service at the chapel, Walters' wife, Stacie Walters, was presented with some of the awards he had earned during his actions on March 23, 2003 — the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

His remains were laid to rest at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Stacie; daughters, Monica, Danielle and Amber Walters of Kansas City, Missouri; parents, Norman and Arlene Walters; sister, Kimberley Cieslak; brother, Norman Walters Jr.; grandmother, Elizabeth Walters; aunt and uncle Norma and Ernest Looney, niece, Clara Walters, nephews, Austin Cieslak and Justin Dunaway; and several cousins.

The day following his funeral service, the DoD reported that Marines rescued seven prisoners of war in Tikrit. Five soldiers were from the 507th: Sgt. James Riley, 31, of Pennsauken, New Jersey; Spc. Shoshana Johnson, 30, of El Paso, Texas; Spc. Edgar Hernandez, 21, of Mission, Texas; Spc. Joseph Hudson, 23, of Alamogordo, New Mexico; and Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, of Walter, Kansas.

The other two rescued POWs were Apache pilots Chief Warrant Officers David S. Williams and Ronald D. Young, members of 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation at Fort Hood, Texas.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Sgt. Donald Walters' parents Norman (Sr.) and Arlene Walters, his wife Stacie Walters, and her mother Evelyn Stout, sit at the graveside after the memorial service April 11, 2003, for the 507th Maintenance Battalion soldier killed in action in Iraq. Walters' mother and wife were presented American flags during the service.



Ken Baker, former Marine, and his daughter, Jaquelin, show signs of patriotism and concern as the funeral procession for Sgt. Donald Walters moves from Main Post Chapel to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery April 12, 2003.

Other members of Baker's family were also present, as well as the Dupont and Crosman families. Baker's wife, Shelia Baker, said her son, Staff Sgt. Tom Baker, returned to the United States in August 2002 after six months in Afghanistan, so the day was especially poignant for them.

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

FROM THE LAMP

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Archives

Story by Robby Kennedy
Photos by Prudence Siebert

Army upgrades sergeant's award to Silver Star

reflecting heroism in deadly ambush

by Robby Kennedy/Former Staff Writer

A hero was honored at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery April 12, 2004, as a Silver Star was

posthumously awarded to Sgt. Donald Walters during a ceremony paying homage to his courage and gallantry.

Walters — who was killed in 2003 in an ambush

near An Nasiriyah, Iraq — was originally awarded the Bronze Star Medal for valor. However, as more facts became known about his ac-

complished actions, he was

Silver Star

(continued from Page S6)



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Sgt. Donald Walters' headstone reflects the change in honors received — from Bronze Star to Silver Star, which was presented to his family members April 12, 2004, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

tions during the ambush, the award was upgraded to a Silver Star, the third highest distinction for valor conferred by the Army.

“During combat action, many times we don’t know what happened,” said Brig. Gen. Howard Bromberg, Walters’ senior commanding officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bromberg explained that details of what happened during the deadly ambush have been revealed over the past year, and that additional information has led to the award upgrade.

At about 7 a.m. on March 23, 2003, an element of the 507th Maintenance Company was attacked by Iraqi military and irregular forces on the outskirts of An Nasiriyah. The 18-vehicle convoy was manned by 33 soldiers. While some of the convoy escaped, 11 soldiers — including Walters — died, and seven were captured. Nine were wounded, including some of those who were captured.

Walters is believed to have provided covering fire for his assailed comrades, allowing them opportunity to escape — at the cost of his own life, Bromberg said.

During the ceremony, Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth Commander Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace spoke of

Walters’ courage and conviction.

“The name Donald Walters I will never forget ... for his heroism, sacrifice and service; and for his obvious conviction,” Wallace said. “Sergeant Walters’ profound courage, his focused resolve that ignored both fear and death, were fired from within by the overpowering need to protect his comrades ... Because of his gallantry, because of his fight, others in the convoy were able to escape the deadly concentration of the Iraqi ambush.”

Wallace went on to express gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice made by Walters, and he offered consolation to the family he left behind.

“There are no words that sufficiently express the gratitude of our nation for men such as he,” Wallace said. “To his family we say ‘thank you’ for your sacrifice. And today, although you can no longer hold him — we hold you in our collective arms and pray with our collective voices that you will find some measure of peace knowing that he died a hero. May God bless you with His healing love, may God bless our service members standing watch around the world, and may God bless America.”

Following Wallace’s remarks, Walters’ new head-

stone was unveiled — re-engraved to honor his higher distinction and to record his legacy as a hero in immortal stone.

After the ceremony, the sergeant’s widow Stacie Walters expressed her satisfaction with her husband’s recognition.

“I’m very happy that Don was finally recognized as a true hero, and that he has received the Silver Star,” she said. “Everybody worked very hard to dig through all the information ... and he is being recognized for his actions. We can finally put this thing to rest and get on with our lives.”

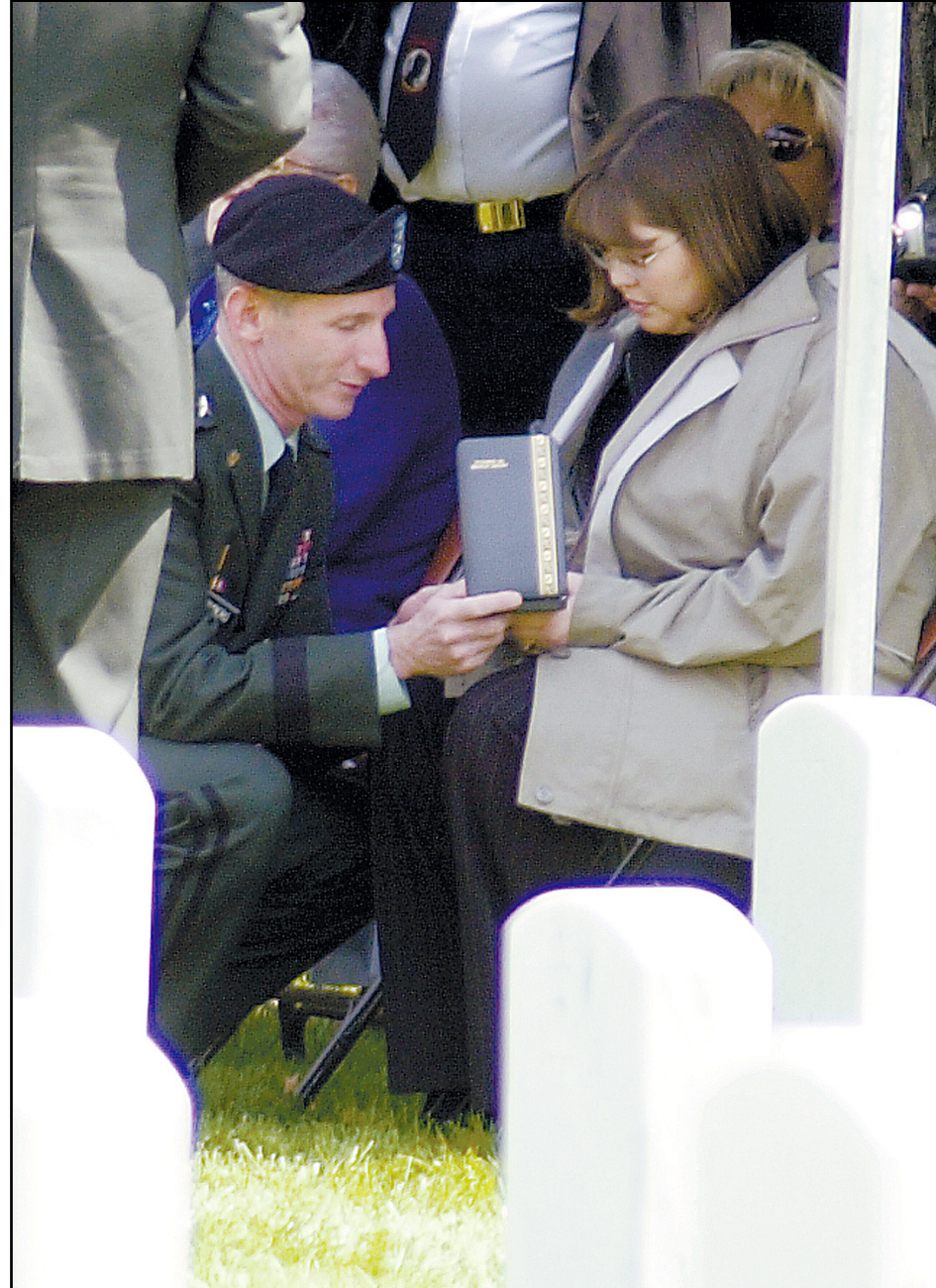
Stacie said the greater honor of a Silver Star was important because it provides her family with a sense of closure, and because of it her daughters will always know their father was a hero.

Army University Press offers a virtual staff ride on the ambush of the 507th Maintenance Company, <https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Staff-Rides/virtual-staff-ride/ambush-of-the-507th-maintenance-company/>, and the article https://www.army.mil/article/74418/capture_of_first_african_american_female_pow_provides_more_details_of_the_attack.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Sgt. Donald Walters' mother Arlene Walters holds her son's Silver Star following a ceremony posthumously upgrading the fallen soldier's Bronze Star April 12, 2004, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.



Photos by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

ABOVE: Brig. Gen. Howard Bromberg, director of Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate, U.S. Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Virginia, presents Sgt. Donald Walters' widow, Stacie Walters, with the Silver Star April 12, 2004, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. At the time of his death in Iraq, Walters was in the 507th Maintenance Company, assigned to support the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, of which Bromberg was commanding officer.

LEFT: Supporters bow their heads in a moment of silence for Sgt. Donald Walters April 12, 2004, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.



Missouri Congressman Sam Graves and Chief of Staff Col. David Buckley show their respect as the 705th Military Police Battalion Color Guard passes during a ceremony upgrading Operation Iraqi Freedom casualty Sgt. Donald Walters' Bronze Star to the Silver Star April 12, 2004, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

REMEMBERING our fallen



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Ten-year-old Braydon Nichols points to the lantern he decorated for his father, Chinook pilot Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bryan Nichols, as he and Maj. Christopher Lieb, 2012-01 Intermediate Level Education student, watch recently launched lanterns float on Merritt Lake Sept. 30, 2011. Braydon's father was killed in Afghanistan in Aug. 6, 2011. Family members, supported by ILE students, decorated lanterns and set them afloat for the second Survivor Outreach Services lantern launch to remember fallen service members.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Leavenworth DARE Officer Mark Lingenfelter leads the funeral procession for his former student Cpl. David Unger from Main Post Chapel to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Oct. 27, 2006. Unger died Oct. 17, 2006, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Eisenhower Elementary School sixth-grader T.J. Felts, right, removes sod with Brad Loveless, Green Team chairperson and manager of biology and conservation programs for Westar Energy, and classmate Jack Farquhar, center, to plant a dogwood tree in memory of T.J.'s father, Col. Thomas Felts, during a ceremony April 23, 2007, in front of the school. Col. Felts was killed Nov. 14, 2006, in Iraq while serving as a senior team leader and adviser to the Iraqi military. He was a senior service fellow of the Advanced Operational Arts Studies Fellowship at the Command and General Staff College.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, assistant division commander of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas, presents the flag that draped Pfc. Matthew Murchison's casket to the 21-year-old soldier's mother, Deborah Shanahan (Murchison-Perri), Aug. 13, 2007, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. Murchison died Aug. 4, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Participants gather near a battlefield cross memorial before the Run for the Fallen Sept. 12, 2015, outside the Resiliency Center. An estimated 2,500 people ran or walked in the event to remember fallen service members.

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

REMEMBERING our fallen



Photo by Melissa Bower/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Members of the Fort Leavenworth community line Grant Avenue to show support for the funeral procession of Col. John McHugh May 27, 2010. McHugh, chief of Battle Command Training Program, Group A, died in Kabal, Afghanistan, May 18, 2010, as a result of wounds received from a terrorist car bomb. See related story on page S11.

Fort Leavenworth community members pay their respects as Sgt. Courtney D. Finch's funeral procession, including many Patriot Guard Riders, passes along Grant Avenue en route to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Aug. 2, 2008. Finch, of Leavenworth, was assigned to the 714th Security Force, Kansas Army National Guard, when he died July 24, 2008, in Qayyarah, Iraq, of non-combat-related injuries.

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Patriot Guard Riders rumble onto post with the funeral procession for 21-year-old fallen soldier Spc. Spencer Duncan as the procession passes along Grant Avenue to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery Aug. 18, 2011. Duncan was killed in action with 30 other American service members when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed Aug. 6, 2011, in Afghanistan.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Fort Leavenworth community members line Grant Avenue as the funeral procession for fallen World War II airman Staff Sgt. Vincent Politte makes its way to Pioneer Chapel July 30, 2018. Politte, whose remains were identified with DNA and other evidence, was killed Aug. 1, 1943, in Romania while serving with the U.S. Army Air Forces in WWII.



Maj. Bob Gordon, Operations Group X-ray, Mission Command Training Program, and Mariangela Gordon pin race bibs onto their daughters, 5-year-old Abigail and 7-year-old Mia, before the Run for the Fallen Sept. 15, 2018, in the Frontier Conference Center parking lot.

The family wore the race bibs in memory of Douglas Hill, Mariangela's mother's cousin who died in Vietnam, and Leif Nott, Bob's friend from his U.S. Military Academy class of 2000 who was killed July 30, 2003, while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

REMEMBERING our fallen

FROM THE LAMP

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Archives

Street honors former USDB commandant

by Tisha Swart-Entwistle/Former Staff Writer

The 47th commandant of the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks was honored with the dedication of a road named in his honor during a ceremony behind the walls of the old USDB Nov. 1, 2007.

Col. James W. Harrison Jr. was killed May 6, 2007, in Afghanistan while serving as director of the Detainee Capabilities Directorate, Combined Security Transition Command. His last assignment at Fort Leavenworth had been as the director of the School of Command Preparation at the Command and General Staff College. Just before that assignment Harrison was commandant of the USDB.

Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth Commander Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV said it is a military tradition to honor individuals who have made a lasting contribution to the nation by naming streets and buildings after them. Caldwell compared Harrison Drive to other places on the installation like Grant Avenue, Hancock Avenue and MacArthur Elementary School.

"Today Col. James W. Harrison joins some of the most important and courageous names in our history," Caldwell said.

Caldwell said it was fitting to dedicate the road inside the walls of the old USDB as it is one of the most well known and historic landmarks of the Military Police Corps and Fort Leavenworth.

"It is altogether appropriate that a career military police officer, a pioneer in his own right, has a road that is located inside this original and historic site at the USDB named for him," Caldwell said.

During Harrison's time as commandant, he simultaneously prepared units for deployment to combat and ran the Depart-

ment of Defense's only maximum-security prison, Caldwell said. Harrison had planned to retire after leaving the USDB, but decided to stay on active duty, taking the position at CGSC. Harrison was working as a detention policy expert in Afghanistan when he was killed.

Caldwell read part of a letter written by an Afghan brigadier general who was the commandant of the prison where Harrison had been working.

"In that letter the general wrote, 'We have lost our best friend. I loved him much more than my brothers. All of you must be proud of him, his service and his braveness. It is a great honor to all of us to have a brave hero friend like him,'" Caldwell read.

Caldwell told Harrison's widow, Penni Harrison, he knew there was nothing that could be done to fill the void left by Harrison's loss.

"I do want you to know this — that Jim's sacrifice will always be remembered," Caldwell said. "We at Fort Leavenworth will remember it; we will not allow him to be forgotten."

Harrison's sons Braden and Joshua accompanied their mother and Caldwell to unveil the street sign, and framed replicas of the sign were presented to the family members. The Harrisons' other son, Ross, was unable to attend the ceremony.

Penni Harrison said her husband had told her numerous times before deploying to Afghanistan that he could not think of a better place to leave his family.

"He knew that we would be well taken care of by the Fort Leavenworth community," she said. "We never imagined just how much we would end up needing the support of this community."

Penni Harrison said the support from the surrounding community in the last six



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth Commander Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV presents a copy of the Harrison Drive street sign to Penni Harrison and her sons Braden and Joshua Nov. 1, 2007, at the Old U.S. Disciplinary Barracks. The family of Col. James W. Harrison Jr. helped with the dedication of the road named to honor the 47th USDB commandant who was killed May 6, 2007, in Afghanistan. The Harrisons' other son, Ross, was unable to attend the ceremony.

months has been unparalleled.

"We could never adequately thank each and every one of you for closing ranks around us and taking care of us, just as Jim knew you would do," she said.

She said her husband was extremely proud of being a soldier, and she read an excerpt from a speech her husband gave at the 2005 Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Military Police Ball.

"Our profession has very little to do with financial reward, but has everything to do with contributions. The contributions that you make, money cannot buy. It's about

protecting freedom and a way of life. It's about making the world safer for your children and your grandchildren. It's about sacrifice, but it's also about securing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. There's no greater calling when you think of it in those terms. It's a remarkable calling, and there really is no question about why you serve."

"Those of you who are fortunate enough to call Jim friend will remember him as an intelligent, quiet and unassuming man," Penni Harrison said. "You know just how humbled and honored he would be to have this road named after him."

Road dedicated to corrections NCO

by Melissa Bower/Former Staff Writer

The world may remember Master Sgt. Wilberto Sabalu Jr. for his courage and selfless sacrifice, but his friends remember his smile, his positive attitude and his dedication to helping soldiers.

Sabalu was killed by small arms fire in Afghanistan with Col. James Harrison May 6, 2007. The two soldiers were serving as mentors and experts in detention for the Afghan National Army. Sabalu, who had served as a corrections specialist at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, was assigned to the U.S. Military Police School, and his family was living at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Sabalu is survived by his wife, Amy Sabalu, and two children, Joshua and Nadia, now 13 and 15 (in 2010). Sabalu's sister Elizabeth accepted a ceremonial road sign on the family's behalf.

Sabalu's friends and family and members of the 15th Military Police Brigade joined Fort Leavenworth officials in naming a



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Godwin, 15th Military Police Brigade and U.S. Disciplinary Barracks command sergeant major, and Col. Eric Belcher, 15th MP Brigade commander and USDB commandant, present a road sign to Elizabeth Sabalu to honor her brother, Master Sgt. Wilberto Sabalu Jr., during a ceremony dedicating a road by the Joint Regional Correctional Facility and the USDB in the fallen soldier's name Sept. 28, 2010, in front of the JRCF. Master Sgt. Sabalu, who served several years as a corrections specialist at Fort Leavenworth, was killed in Afghanistan in 2007.

Sabalu Road (continued from Page S10)

road in his honor Sept. 28, 2010. The road provides access to the new Joint Regional Correctional Facility.

Col. Wayne A. Green, Fort Leavenworth Garrison commander, said the road is not far from one dedicated in honor of Harrison inside the old U.S. Disciplinary Barracks.

"These two roads less than a mile apart symbolize our deep appreciation of the lives of two extraordinary men and illustrate our respect to the weight of their names — and in remembrance of their sacrifice — both forever etched as a reminder of their life's work, which was our security," Green said. "It is our hope that every day, those who work here will be reminded of their proud and noble service."

Green read comments from Sabalu's friends and fellow service members.

From Rick Brake: "Wil loved his family so much ... he had family pictures all over his wall in his room and talked about them all of the time. I know he's looking down with that warm smile and watching them every minute of every day. He was so grateful for his wife, Amy, and was so in love with her. We used to sit and talk just about every night for hours on end it seemed, laughing and joking. He couldn't have had a more perfect family."

From Patrick Jones: "I thought he was everything an NCO should be, and I appreciated his demeanor, professionalism, and friendship. Master Sergeant Sabalu was

a soldier of many traits who always took the time to teach other people what he knew. He was loved and will be missed by all of us. He, without a doubt, was as good a man out of uniform as well as in uniform — HONORABLE."

Col. Eric Belcher, commander of the 15th MP Brigade, said he was serving in Afghanistan at the time of Sabalu's death. He said that what Sabalu and Harrison were doing — training and mentoring ANA soldiers — was very important to the security and stability of the region. Belcher said this training helped the Afghan people detain criminals.

"Many soldiers, sailors, Marines, civilians and Afghan soldiers got to know that great personality called Master Sergeant Sabalu," Belcher wrote. "He was respected by all."

Juan Guzman, now a Department of the Army police officer for Fort Leavenworth, served with Sabalu in Company A, 705th Military Police Battalion. He remembers Sabalu getting involved with adult sports activities on post. Guzman said Sabalu had a great sense of humor and was always trying to pass his positive attitude onto his soldiers.

"He always looked after the soldiers first," he said. "No matter what."

Maria Kuilan, wife of Angel Kuilan who served with Sabalu at the USDB, remembers taking care of the couple's children. She said his children are her godchildren



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Elizabeth Sabalu talks with Juan Guzman and Charles Davis, friends of her brother, Master Sgt. Wilberto Sabalu Jr., following a ceremony dedicating a road by the Joint Regional Correctional Facility and the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks in the fallen soldier's name Sept. 28, 2010, in front of the JRCF. Master Sgt. Sabalu, who served several years as a corrections specialist at Fort Leavenworth, was killed in Afghanistan in 2007.

and the Sabalus also served as her children's godparents.

"His kids were my kids and my kids were their kids, that's what the godparent is all about," she said.

She brought all the children from her in-home daycare, MDRGoose, to witness the

ceremony. Kuilan said she still remembers the smile for which Sabalu was so well known.

"Nadia has her dad's smile," she said. "If you saw his picture and her smile, she's just like him."

Daughter's tribute now part of McHugh Training Center

by Jan Dumay/Former Staff Writer

May 18 will always be a date Kelly McHugh remembers.

Her father, Col. John M. McHugh, died on that day in 2010, the victim of suicide car bomber. McHugh was one of 18 people killed on the way to a NATO peace conference in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Three years later to the day, Kelly, 22, graduated with a journalism degree from Kansas State University in Manhattan.

In an online assignment for one of her classes, McHugh wrote a story called "A daughter's story: The reality of being an Army kid." In the story, she memorialized her father, who commanded the Mission Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth.

"I can let my dad's death hold me back or I can use it as motivation to move forward," Kelly wrote.

The *Kansas State Collegian*, *The Kansas City Star* and *The Manhattan Mercury* picked up the story. It is available to view on the website homefront-transitions.com under "Gold Star Children."

On Aug. 1, 2013, Kelly was honored in a ceremony at the McHugh Training Center at Townsend Hall, the MCTP training facility named for her father. A replica of the May 14, 2013, *Kansas City Star* story will hang on the wall as a reminder to all who train



Kelly McHugh wipes away tears as Brig. Gen. Mike Lundy, deputy commanding general for Combined Arms Center-Training, unveils a copy of an article she wrote about her late father, Col. John McHugh, Aug. 1, 2013, at the McHugh Training Center at Townsend Hall. Col. McHugh was commander of the Mission Command Training Center when he was killed by a suicide bomber while attending a NATO conference in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 2010. Kelly McHugh's tribute to her father, originally written for a class at Kansas State University, was picked up by several newspapers, including *The Kansas City Star*.

Photo by Bob Kerr/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

there about her father's dedication as a father, friend and Army soldier.

"When I read your article I was very moved, and I know everybody in the room who read your article was very moved," Brig. Gen. Mike Lundy, deputy commanding general for Combined Arms Center-Training, told Kelly at the ceremony attended by MCTP soldiers.

Describing McHugh as a friend who was an enthusiastic, inspirational and dedicated trainer, Lundy said he also had a great impact on the Army.

"It's very appropriate that this building is named after him because it honors

exactly what he did for our Army, which is train our leadership, train our soldiers," Lundy said. "Those who personally knew him were touched by him, but those who really didn't know him ... benefited by his expertise."

He said MCTP touches every unit in the Army.

"That is phenomenal and your dad was part of that," Lundy told Kelly. "He lives on in this building, he's part of the symbolism in the building, and more importantly, he lives in all of us."

Kelly, who now writes feature stories for *K-State Athletics K-State Sports Extra*, thanked the soldiers

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in attendance.

"I think this is great," she said.

Later, she said she had attended many events honoring her dad.

"But this one is really, really special," she said. "It means the world to me. When they said they were going to do the ceremony, I was really humbled by it. I wrote the story from my

heart, and I've been so touched by this."

She said being raised in the Army with her four siblings was an amazing experience. She said her oldest brother, Michael, a chief warrant officer at Fort Riley, Kansas, is getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan.

"I would never trade my childhood for anything," she said. "In every Army

post I've known, it's just a close-knit family. Just driving through the gates of Fort Leavenworth this morning, I felt I was home."

Lundy said after the ceremony that the McHugh family is important to the Army.

"I'm glad we were able to recognize John's service and the sacrifice the family has made," he said.

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MEMORIAL DAY

over the years



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Spc. Carlos Pagan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Military Police Battalion (Detention), salutes as members of the salute battery — including Pvt. Kylen Hicks, HHC, 40th; Spc. Joseph Kretz, 500th Military Police Detachment, Special Troops Battalion; and Sgt. David Jacobs, 500th — fire the national salute during the Memorial Day ceremony May 25, 2020, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Boy Scout Erin Muñoz, Troop 366, measures out a foot to place a flag at a gravesite while his brother Ryan Muñoz does the same behind him May 24, 2014, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. Members of Boy Scout Troop 366, American Heritage Girls and other area Scouting groups and their family members helped prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day the Saturday before the holiday by ensuring each gravesite was adorned with the U.S. colors.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Sgt. 1st Class Omar Rich, Spc. Alain Nadeau and the rest of the joint service color guard retire the colors at the Memorial Day ceremony May 29, 2006, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.



Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

15th Military Police Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Raines, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army retired Lt. Gen. Robert Arter and Medal of Honor recipient retired Lt. Col. Charles Hagemester place a wreath at the gravesite of post commander Brevet Brig. Gen. Henry Leavenworth in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War during the Memorial Day ceremony May 30, 2016, at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.